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THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

MISSIONS

Co-operation in China

In China—and elsewhere—the free-lance missionary and the independent small mission have often proved a hindrance rather than a help, first because the Chinese failed to understand the purpose of such a mission, and also because its views were, as a matter of course, peculiar. So confederation of churches belonging to the same body and co-operation of these churches on the base of interdenominationalism will give a real impetus to mission work. It is hoped that before long a scheme for a union Christian University in Peking will be a tangible result of the new spirit of co-operation.

The Kikuyu Conference

A conference of representatives of missionary societies working in British East Africa was held at Kikuyu in June. This gathering drew up a scheme of federation of Protestant missions. Two bishops of the Anglican church entered heartily into the agreement. It was decided that each mission would accept as communicants members of other churches who would come and live in the vicinity, if these members brought a ticket or letter of transfer. Preachers belonging to any denomination would be allowed to preach in other churches. A simplified form of liturgical service would be composed and this form would be used at stated times in the divers churches, so that Christians belonging to every denomination may get accustomed to it. When the Bishop of Zanzibar, part of whose diocese is in British East Africa, and whose views are of the type usually called "high church," heard of the results of the Conference, he protested against the federation scheme and accused his two colleagues of heresy. It is much to be regretted that the

Bishop of Zanzibar failed to attend the Conference. His presence would have been a safeguard against hasty decisions and the historic position of the Church of England would probably not have been abandoned, as it seems to have been, by the Bishops of Uganda and Mombasa. From the point of view of strict legality, the Bishop of Zanzibar may be right, but there are duties which transcend legality and Christian union is one of these. The agitation created in England over this affair has abated. It seems probable that the scheme of Kikuyu will be dropped or at least made less complete. It would probably have been a better scheme if it had been less drastic.

Mass Movements in the Dutch East Indies

The mass movement toward Christianity among the animistic tribes in the Dutch East Indies spreads rapidly. The German Rhenish mission among the Bataks in Sumatra reports 14,000 baptisms, bringing the total Christian community among the people to 140,000. There is also a very large increase of church membership among the Borneo Dayaks. The peril of the future seems to be the influence of a materialistic European civilization. Javanese of the upper class will be tempted to adopt only certain features of western culture—and these not always the best—without acquiring a real knowledge of its higher principles.

The Lokoja Conference

A United Missionary Conference was held at Lokoja, in July. Various missionary societies working in Northern Nigeria were represented. No ecclesiastical discussion took place: some common points were agreed to concerning the policy to be

followed in respect to certain native customs. It was decided, for instance, that the native form of marriage was not to be regarded as being a marriage at all, because it is not binding for life. Mohammedan missionaries do not usually attack native customs so sharply. Perhaps they are wiser. The British government puts restrictions on mission work among Mohammedans in Northern Nigeria. Early in 1913, an agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society was expelled from Northern Nigeria by the British authorities.

Mission Work in Japan

There are in Japan 92,595 non-Roman Christians and 63,081 Roman Catholics. There are 80 Protestant houses of worship in Tokyo and their total church attendance on Sunday morning is 5,000 on the average.

American Missionary Budget for 1913

Nearly sixteen and one-half million dollars were given last year for Foreign Missions by the Protestant churches of the United States and of Canada. Advance toward self-support is shown by the fact that nearly four million dollars were contributed by the native churches on the foreign field under American supervision. There were last year 6,979 American missionaries in foreign countries, in addition to 2,807 wives of missionaries. Native workers numbered 48,454 and the full communicant members of the native churches belonging to American missions are 1,366,551, a remarkable increase of 200,000 over last year. During the same period \$400,000,000 were spent on local American churches.

Mission Work of the American Catholic Church in Cuba

The ancient colonies of Spain are just as much in need of missionaries as the heathen world. The Roman Catholic church has lost her hold upon the people, and millions are now shepherdless in these nominally Christian countries. The Protestant Episcopal church in Cuba has increased in 9 years from 200 to 1,700 communicants and from 2 clergymen to 24. Half of these communicants are English-speaking people. The Spanish-speaking members of the church are usually of the lower class, as in most foreign fields.

What the Chinese Think of Mission Work

During the Boxer rebellion, many missionaries were massacred in Shansi, China. Now the government of this province has asked the American Board of Foreign Missions to take charge of a very large number of the public schools of Shansi, with liberty to teach the Bible and the Christian religion. A large grant is also promised by the government. It is doubtful whether the American Board will accept this offer because of the heavy expenditure already incurred by the Society.

The Outcome of the Conspiracy Trials in Korea

The high-handed treatment of Christian Nationalists in Korea by the Japanese has brought about a decrease in the number of catechumens. The Presbyterian and Methodist missions work in good harmony and have formed together a Federal Council. These missions report 11,700 baptisms during the last year. The circulation of Scriptures has been a record one.